

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 IGA-02 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1760

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1357

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 9892

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 9683

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ACTING FONMIN COLONEL ENRIQUE VALDES CALLED IN AMBASSADOR OCTOBER 8 TO BRING TO USG ATTENTION WHAT HE (VALDES) DESCRIBED AS THE UNOBJECTIVE, POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, AND DISCRIMINATORY CONTENT OF THE NEWEST UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONWORKING GROUP DRAFT REPORT ON CHILE. ASSERTED THAT PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND AID TO ANTI-REGIME CHILEANS CONSTITUTE INTERVENTION AND CREATE A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT. GOC AIDE MEMOIRE SOLICITS OUR SUPPORT. RESPONSE REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. VALDES STATED THAT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WORKING GROUP HAD NOW FURNISHED A DRAFT OF ITS CURRENT REPORT ON CHILE TO THE GOC. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE REPORT CARRIES UN ACTION WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE TO A NEW STAGE. WHEREAS EARLIER WORKING GROUP REPORTS WERE CENTERED LARGELY ON INDIVIDUAL CASES AND GOC PROCEDURES IN DEALING WITH ITS POLITICAL OPPONENTS, THE NEW DRAFT GOES MUCH FARTHER. AS
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DESCRIBED BY VALDES, IT SUGGESTS ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST

THE GOC AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO GOC POLITICAL PRISONERS AND OTHERS ADVERSELY AFFECTED. FURTHER, IT ANALYSES CRITICALLY THE NEW CHILEAN CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION AND STIGMATIZES THE CHILEAN JUDICIARY FOR THE LATTER'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE.

3. VALDES STATED THAT THE GOC VIEWED THE PROPOSED INTENSIFICATION OF THE UN ACTION AGAINST CHILE AS A MOST SERIOUS MATTER. HE MAINTAINED THAT IT WAS SERIOUS NOT ONLY, OR EVEN PRINCIPALLY, FOR CHILE; THE PROPOSALS MADE TODAY WITH RESPECT TO CHILE COULD BE MADE TOMORROW WITH RESPECT TO MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS. THESE PROPOSALS, AS HE PUT IT, INVOLVE AN ACT OF INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF HIS GOVERNMENT WHICH SHOULD NOT BE COUNTENANCED.

4. AMBASSADOR NOTED SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTION PROPOSALS EVIDENTLY CONTAINED IN DRAFT WORKING GROUP REPORT AND DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH EMBASSY HAD LEARNED FROM SANTIAGO PRESS HAD BEEN ADOPTED IN AUGUST BY UN SUB-COMMISSION ON DISCRIMINATION AND MINORITIES (REFTEL). SAID WE HAD INQUIRED RE SIGNIFICANCE OF LATTER, AND WHAT RELATION IT WOULD HAVE TO WORKING GROUP'S ACTIVITIES, BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED REPLY. PROMISED TO REPORT GOC VIEWS SOONEST AND CONVEY RESPONSE WHEN RECEIVED.

5. VALDES CONFIRMED THAT SIMILAR DEMARCHES HAD BEEN MADE TO OTHER LOCAL CHIEFS OF MISSION AS NOTED REFTEL. SUBSTANKE WAS ALSO CONVEYED BY GOC DEL (HUERTA) TO AMBASSADOR BENNETT -- USUN 4239.

6. COMMENT: WE NOW HAVE THE GOC ANSWER TO QUESTIONS WE RAISED IN REFTEL AS TO DISCRIMINATION SUB-COMMISSION RESOLUTION. WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE PROBLEM AND PRECEDENT INVOLVED. IF VALDES IS REPORTING ACCURATELY, THE ISSUE IS WHETHER HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHILE, SERIOUS AS THEY ARE, WARRANT UN PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, ETC., AND IF SO, HOW THE UN CAN FAIL TO APPLY SIMILAR TREATMENT TO THE MANY OTHER STATES GUILTY OF SIMILAR PRACTICES WITHOUT OPENING ITSELF TO CHARGES OF DISCRIMINATION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. WE ARE TOLD ITEM WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED IN UNGA THIRD COMMITTEE BEFORE END OF MONTH.
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THIS SHOULD PROVIDE TIME TO DETERMINE WHETHER WE CAN AVOID THE DILEMMA PRESENTED TO US BY SUCH SELECTIVITY.

7. TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE BY SEPTTEL.
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